

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NEA-10 NIC-01 DRC-01

CU-04 /154 W

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R 161526Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3946

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN MAJOR PUBLIC
ATTENTION TO 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S.-SOVIET
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (NOVEMBER 16). GALA
MEETING NOVEMBER 15 AT MOSCOW "FRIENDSHIP HOUSE"
WAS ADDRESSED BY USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARBATOV,
WHO WELCOMED POLITICAL "REALISM" ON PART OF U.S.
AND REVIEWED HISTORY OF LOST OPPORTUNITIES IN
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BILATERAL RELATIONS. CHARGE RESPONDED WITH CALL FOR

CONTINUED DIALOGUE AND FURTHER CONCRETE COOPERATION.
EMBASSY RECEPTION NOVEMBER 16 DREW GOOD ATTENDANCE FROM
WIDE RANGE OF MINISTRIES AT VICE-MINISTER AND SENIOR
OFFICIAL LEVEL, HEADED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
PEGOV (FIRST DEPUTY FOMIN KUZNETSOV DID NOT SHOW BECAUSE
OF CONFLICT IN SCHEDULE) PERSONAL WARMTH AND POSITIVE MEDIA TREATMENT
OF ANNIVERSARY AND OTHER U.S.- SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN PAST WEEK
MARK QUALITATIVE ADVANCE FROM PERIOD OF GREATEST
MIDDLE EAST UNCERTAINTY IN LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER.
END SUMMARY.

2. MOST SOVIET CENTRAL PAPERS CARRY SPECIAL ARTICLES
DEVOTED TO 40TH ANNIVERSARY U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS
NOVEMBER 16. NOTABLE EXCEPTION IS MILITARY ORGAN
RED STAR. WHILE THERE IS NO MAJOR COMMENTARY ON THE
ANNIVERSARY IN PRAVDA, IT CARRIES UNUSUALLY PROMINENT
REPORT OF NOV. 15 FRIENDSHIP HOUSE CEREMONY. MOREOVER,
PREVIOUS DAY'S PRAVDA PUBLISHED ARTICLE ASSESSING
U.S.- SOVIET RELATIONS, AUTHORITATIVENESS OF WHICH WAS
EMPHASIZED TO EMBASSY BY MFA OFFICIALS.

3. PRAVDA NOVEMBER 15 ASSESSMENT AND ANNIVERSARY
PRESS MATERIALS ARE BUILT AROUND BREZHNEV'S OCTOBER 26
PEACE CONGRESS REMARKS ON U.S.- SOVIET RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY
STRESSING NON-INTERFERENCE. TONE IS BASICALLY POSITIVE,
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME CRITICAL REFERENCES TO U.S.
POLICY AT VARIOUS POINTS IN HISTORY. THERE IS SCARCELY
A HINT OF THE RECENT MIDDLE EAST IMPACT ON DETENTE, AND
THIS LINE IS REINFORCED BY A SEPARATE NEWS ITEM IN
PRAVDA QUOTING DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH'S STATEMENT THAT
DETENTE HAS WITHSTOOD THE TEST.

4. GALA CEREMONY AT FRIENDSHIP HOUSE DREW OVERFLOW
ATTENDANCE (BY INVITATION) OF 250-300 PEOPLE. AN
HONORED GUEST WAS ARMAND HAMMER. FOLLOWING OPENING OF
ART EXHIBIT (WORKS OF SOVIET ARTISTS PORTRAYING U.S.
IN FAVORABLE LIGHT), USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARBATOV
DELIVERED HALF-HOUR ADDRESS ON HISTORY OF U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONS. HE MANAGED TO INCORPORATE JIBES AT
AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN CIVIL WAR, THE U-2 INCIDENT
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AND U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM. MOREOVER, HE DEVELOPED
THESIS THAT UPS AND DOWNS OF RELATIONS WERE DUE ENTIRELY
TO CHANGES IN U.S. POLICY -- TO POLITICAL REALISM OR THE
LACK OF IT. HE LAMENTED THE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES OF THE
PAST, DRAWING THE LESSON THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE
ALLOWED TO RECUR. BUT HE GAVE POSITIVE APPRAISAL TO
CURRENT STATUS OF RELATIONS, REFERRING LISTENERS TO
BREZHNEV OCTOBER 26 SPEECH AS MOST RECENT "AUTHORITA-

TIVE DOCUMENT" ON THE SUBJECT.

5. CHARGE RESPONDED (IN RUSSIAN) WITH REMARKS FOCUSED MAINLY ON PRESENT ERA OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONS (TEXT SEPTEL.) FILMED EXCERPTS FROM BOTH ARBATOV'S AND CHARGE'S REMARKS WERE CARRIED ON NATIONWIDE EVENING TELEVISION NEWS ON NOVEMBER 15.

6. NOVEMBER 16 MID-DAY EMBASSY RECEPTION AT SPASO HOUSE WAS ATTENDED BY GOOD REPRESENTATION OF SOVIET OFFICIALS AT VICE-MINISTER OR OTHER SENIOR LEVELS. ALTHOUGH FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV WAS INVITED, HE WAS TIED UP WITH VISITING GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER SINCE GROMYKO HAD NOT YET RETURNED TO MOSCOW FROM KIEV. SEVERAL MFA OFFICIALS SAID HE HOPED TO STOP IN FOR A FEW MINUTES, BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO DO SO. DEPUTY MINISTER PEGOV EXCHANGED TOASTS WITH CHARGE.
DUBS

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